

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics...

SCRANTON, MARCH 5, 1900.

STATE CONVENTION CALL.

To the Republican Electors of Pennsylvania:

I am directed by the Republican state committee to announce that the Republicans of Pennsylvania, by their duly chosen representatives, will meet in convention at the opera house, in the city of Harrisburg, on Wednesday, April 25, 1900, at 10:30 o'clock a. m.

One person for the office of auditor general.

Two persons for the office of congress-man-at-large.

Thirty-two persons (four-at-large) for presidential electors, and to choose eight delegates and eight alternates-at-large to the Republican national convention to be held in Philadelphia on Tuesday, the thirteenth day of June next, and for the transaction of such other business as may be presented.

In accordance with the rule adopted at the state convention held in Harrisburg on August 24th, last, the representation in the state convention will be based on the vote polled at the last presidential election.

Under this rule each legislative district is entitled to one delegate for every two thousand votes cast for presidential electors, in 1896, and an additional delegate for every fraction of two thousand votes polled in excess of one thousand. Each district is entitled to the same number of delegates as represented in the convention of 1896.

By order of the Republican state committee.

Frank Reeder, Chairman.

W. R. Andrews, C. E. Voorhes, Secretaries.

Should Quay be seated the esteemed Philadelphia Press fears that "a premium would be placed on successful cuballing in the legislature to prevent an election of senators so as to throw the appointment into the hands of the governor."

Efficient Representatives.

TWO of the legislative districts of this county candidates for the nomination on the Republican ticket have been announced and the lines of battle drawn.

In the First district Speaker Farr is opposed by Thomas J. Reynolds and in the Second Frederick Connell has registered as a candidate in opposition to Representative John Scheuer.

Neither Mr. Reynolds nor Mr. Connell has had experience at Harrisburg; and if the forthcoming census should result in Scranton's becoming a second-class city, the election of important legislative interests of this third largest city in the state, would be in absolutely inexperienced hands.

It is true in all legislative bodies, and especially at Harrisburg, that the new member is at a disadvantage, and the greater the interests of his constituents the less likely they are to receive the attention which is their due.

In Philadelphia and Pittsburgh this fact is so well understood that the delegations from these cities are continued with very few changes session after session, until they virtually dominate the house.

It is high time that Scranton profited by their example.

If it could honestly be shown that either Mr. Farr or Mr. Scheuer had broken faith by their actions at Harrisburg, or done that which should forfeit their claim to public confidence the case against them would be different.

As it is, the only criticism made against them is that they kept stop with the great majority of their party, were true to its caucus and thereby won for their constituents the honor and prestige of the speakership and liberal recognition for city and county interests.

This being the case it is no more than fair to Messrs. Farr and Scheuer to give them each a handsome reelection.

At the request of the congregation to which he ministers, Rev. Dr. Parkhurst has retired from the associations of a professional reformer, and it is time. His was not the temperance which conduced to success in that line.

Cleaning House.

SINCE THE MAYOR caused the election of the slot machines, the gambling fraternity has exhibited much uneasiness and threats of political revenge are freely bandied about.

We doubt that they secure the mayor. He is under obligations to no class or faction, least of all to the men who make their living by fleecing the unwary.

There is in this city an aroused public sentiment which demands that the house-cleaning thus begun be carried forward until notorious abuses are abated. The mayor is naturally looked to for leadership in this direction and in any just measures which he may take for the cleansing of the city he will have the public's earnest support.

This is not and should not be a question of factional politics but one of law-enforcement and when the mayor acts courageously for the whole city he will have ample backing.

The present executive in party matters has not always been well advised; it would pay him to take counsel of men who have no axes to grind. But the people do not believe that he is dishonest; they commend him for the start that he has made in the matter of the slot machines and they await the opportunity to commend him still further.

The Democratic party is always putting its foot in it. Within seventy-two hours after it had howled so furiously at the Republican majority in congress for refusing to give Puerto Rico free

trade it voted in a body against the president's recommendation to give to Puerto Rico all the tariff money collected on Puerto Rican goods imported into this country since her occupation by the American troops. This shows very conclusively that the Democratic party, as represented at Washington, cares not a rap about the welfare of the inhabitants of Puerto Rico; its sole aim is to go "agin" the government.

Secretary Root's visit to Cuba has no ulterior significance. It is simply the wise step of an official who wants to know the details of his work.

Philippine Conditions.

ON NEW YEAR'S day the editor of the Washington Evening Star, Mr. Theo. W. Noyes, who is making a journey of observation in the Orient, had an extended interview with General Otis in Manila, in the course of which much light was thrown upon the features of the Philippine situation that have been imperfectly understood here at home.

One point, for example, which has been the subject of considerable criticism is the fact that for many months the policy of the Eighth army corps seemed to be to capture and abandon towns repeatedly, making no visible progress. General Otis explains that by saying that the vital point of attack was not the town in any case but the Filipino insurgent soldiers, concentrated in or near it; and more especially their arms and ammunition.

"Our comparatively small force occupying a long thin line could not afford," the general remarked to Mr. Noyes, "to permit the enemy to concentrate at any adjacent and threatening point, and was compelled to take the initiative, and to strike wherever he showed a disposition to assemble in force. If the concentration movement was prevented, if the Filipinos were dispersed with losses and arms and ammunition were captured the action was successful, even though through lack of garrisoning force or on account of the undesirability of its occupation for military purposes the village of nipa huts at which the engagement occurred was not held after the Filipinos were chased out.

With the increased force of soldiers now in the islands it will be possible to garrison and hold all points of strategic value."

In a military sense the dispersed so far that with the exception of a few huts of from two to five hundred which turn "amigo" when pursued and scatter, only to re-assemble when the American pursuers have gone, the active fighting may be said to have ceased.

"This kind of warfare," General Otis confesses, "is exasperating to the soldiers and in their apparent unproductiveness of results arouses the impatience of the public. Two or three regiments could march anywhere in Luzon and destroy everything which Aguinaldo could oppose to them. While the real war is over the need of a large and vigilant army here has not passed. The process of weeding out the robber bands will be slow and tedious, but the result is sure. With an increased cavalry force, with a steadily enlarging knowledge of the topography of the islands, with a vigorous pushing policy on our part, and with a decrease of Filipino sympathy for the robber bands, which lying before the Americans have brutally turned their weapons against their countrymen, the pacification of the islands will be hastened. Whole sections need only to be convinced of the permanence of American protection against the local banditti to co-operate heartily with us. They have been deterred, and are still to some extent, by the fear that after a while the American soldiers will be removed to some other point and that they will be exposed to the murderous fury of the cutthroats who are threatening with death all who show a friendly spirit toward Americans. The contrast between our conduct toward the people and that of Spanish insurgent soldiers is appreciated and confidence in us is steadily increasing. Insurgent leaders themselves while in the field have placed their families in the security of American protection at Manila."

The general says that patience on the part of public opinion toward this necessarily slower and less exciting phase of the military occupation is very desirable.

The upbuilding of civil government is already, to General Otis' mind, the predominant need. "The problem," he points out, "is to build up a structure republican in form upon an inadequate and unreliable foundation. The start upon substantially self-supporting municipal governments has been made, and at many points these are groping toward the light. The outline of a simple form of local government has been framed and put in practical operation wherever feasible. There is a steady, though slow, increase in the degree of Filipino co-operation in such governments. The masses of Aguinaldo's followers are young and irresponsible. Property owners of intelligence already sympathize with the Americans, but they are in many cases terrorized by the Aguinaldists, who promise death to them as soon as the Americans retire. With the garrisoning of the towns this fear will be dissipated, and the progress of civil government, of education and of the reign of reasonable and fixed law will then be hastened. American protection, schools and local self-government will go hand in hand. There are many intelligent Filipinos, in whom I have the fullest confidence as the developers of the future of the Philippines under the protection and with the inspiration of the spirit of the great republic."

Of the larger difficulties in the way of the civil administration General Otis gives first place to the relations between the Filipinos and the friars. On this subject he says discreetly: "Insurgent leaders, in order to keep alive hostility to Americans, have pictured us to their followers as the allies of the friars determined to restore them to power, and have inaccurately represented me as an ardent Romanist in the power of the priests. In pursuance of instructions I tried to secure the release of the friars imprisoned by the insurgents, and I was accused on that account of being in partnership with the archbishop. The question of titles

to real estate in the Philippines, whether claimed by ecclesiastics or laymen, will have, I believe, to be very thoroughly and exhaustively examined and studied, and this will be no quick and easy task. I do not believe that there will be confabulation by the government of any property held by the monastic orders or by anybody by which record title is perfect. So far as the return of the friars is concerned, the matter would seem to be really in the hands of the Filipino Catholics themselves. The friars are now practically expelled, and unless the Filipinos, undergoing a change of sentiment, assent to their return it would seem that the Roman Catholic church in its own interest as well as for the welfare of the Philippines would see to it that the church's recognized representatives in the islands were not violently distasteful to the people whom they seek to guide.

Mr. Noyes presents a remarkably interesting letter with an appreciation of General Otis which credits him with being one of the busiest men in the world. We quote it as a fair offset to the criticism which Otis has received:

"The duties and responsibilities which burden the commanding officer of the American army in the Philippines and the military governor of the islands are almost insupportable. Modern operations here involve the direction of a force of 65,000 men, so scattered as to cover numerous points in the vast area of the Philippine archipelago, with varying conditions in the different islands. When distances and difficulties of transportation and numbers of men equipped and maintained in the field, expedition ranks among the most notable in military history. Civil administration as governor involves the task of creating a sound and wholesome system adapted to existing conditions and of gradually substituting it for that against which the people have revolted, and, in the interval, the maintenance of order, the enforcement of laws, and the adjustment of the old Spanish laws and customs. The combined general and governor has been beset at one time or another, simultaneously or in succession, not only by the insurgents, but by our own impetuous volunteers, who under the impression that the war was over and anxious to get home developed (until the situation was made clear to them) the possibility of the retention of the islands without an army at the time when one was most needed. Uncle Sam has performed the difficult maneuver of swamping war veterans who are not necessary to the government, and the governor was beset also by the strong foreign mercantile firms in Manila, who resented the limitations upon their trade necessarily imposed by the war. He was pulled this way and that by persons with axes to grind and jobs to develop. He had to create a judicial system, and to assume some of the functions of a legislator, compelled to enforce the confused Spanish laws while striving to codify, correct and revise them in gradual preparation for the substitution of a modern and American system. He had to become the tax gatherer of an empire, sitting at the receipt of custom, enforcing Spanish internal revenue and excise laws, and studying them carefully in order that through judicious modifications a reasonable and honestly administered system might be evolved. He had to create a civil government and an educational system, with hardly an atom of foundation upon which to build. Too often the labor set by the Egyptian of making bricks without straw was imposed upon him. General Otis has attacked the task set for him conscientiously, self-sacrificingly and with a courage which is hard work. A fourteen hours' day, instead of one under the eight hours' law, reverts his period of labor. A weak man would have been overwhelmed with the multifarious duties imposed upon him in conducting an active military campaign in the tropical climate, and in the midst of a war and in part unaccustomed to war and confronted by new and strange conditions, and in serving at the same time virtually as a Supreme court in relation to millions of Asiatics.

It is doubtful if any of Otis' critics could have done so well.

So great has been the increase in trade at Honolulu since the annexation of the Hawaiian islands that wharfage facilities are inadequate and makeshift arrangements have to be used. There is no trade tonic equal to the Stars and Stripes.

The Advice of Cowardice.

MR. WANAMAKER'S Philadelphia newspaper is now ready to cry quits with the Philippines, to pull up stakes and move on. Listen to its wall of woe:

"We shall not be surprised should many Republicans from now on feel disposed to confess their cowardice. It has been made in taking the Philippines. It is probable that there will be a growing demand for a correction of that mistake as speedily as possible, for our own sakes. It will be argued that since the retention of the islands involves us in so many difficulties, moral, constitutional and political, and that the relinquishment of the islands to their inhabitants would emancipate us from all of these difficulties, the strongest self-interest enjoins the latter course."

We doubt that our contemporary has gauged correctly the temper of the American people. It certainly has not an understanding of their history. If it imagines that because a duty involves difficulties the American way is to throw up the sponge and choose only the easy tasks of life, it is a degenerate nation which is afraid of responsibilities; and while the antics of such publications as the North American look like symptoms of degeneracy we do not credit the disease to a very large proportion of the population.

Full out of the Philippines? Throw away the work of Otis and Lawton and McArthur? Undo in fear what Dewey and his sailors did so bravely? Advertise to mankind that the United States of America is a coward among the nations, ready whenever complications arise to default on their international obligations? Mr. Wanamaker would make a fine representative of Pennsylvania in the United States senate if these are his views.

CONVENTION CALLS.

First Legislative District. Notice is hereby given that a convention of the Republican electors of the first legislative district will be held at 3 p. m. on the 20th day of March next, at Co-operative hall, West Side, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the legislature to represent said district and electing two delegates to attend the Republican state convention to be held in Harrisburg on April 25, 1900. The convention will be held on Saturday afternoon, March 17, between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock. According to the rules governing the Republican primaries of this legislative district notice of the date of said primary election must be given by the district chairman at least ten days before said primary election and each candidate must register with the district chairman his full name and postoffice address and pay his assessment to the district chairman on or before the day before the primary election or his name will not be placed on the official ballot. No votes shall be counted for any

person who has not complied with these conditions.

W. A. Paine, Chairman. Attest: Joseph Jeffry, Secretary. Scranton, Pa., Feb. 23, 1900.

Second Legislative District.

Notice is hereby given to the Republican electors of the second legislative district that a primary election will be held on Saturday, March 17, 1900, between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock p. m. for the purpose of electing two delegates to represent said legislative district in the coming Republican state convention to be held in Harrisburg, and to nominate a candidate for the legislature. The convention to compute the vote will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 1900, at 1 o'clock p. m. in the court house in Scranton. In accordance with the rules governing this district the candidates will be voted for directly by the voters at the polls. Each candidate must register with the district chairman his full name and postoffice address and pay his assessment to the district chairman on or before the day before the primary election or his name will not be placed in the official ballot, neither will any votes cast for him be counted.

The district vigilance committees in the various precincts will conduct the election and the result will be reported by the return judge to the district convention on the day of the election. A written notice containing further instructions will be sent to the members of the said district vigilance committees.

Frederick W. Fleita, Chairman. Attest: Walter E. Davis, Secretary.

Third Legislative District.

In pursuance of a resolution of the Republican standing committee of the Third Legislative district of Lackawanna county, adopted at a regular meeting held on Saturday, the 24th day of February, 1900, the district convention will be held on Tuesday, the 10th day of April, 1900, at 2 o'clock p. m., in the arbitration room of the court house in Scranton, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the legislature and electing two (2) delegates to represent said district in the state convention to be held at Harrisburg on April 25, 1900, and transacting such other business as shall be brought before it.

Vigilance committees will hold primary elections on Saturday, the 7th day of April, 1900, between the hours of 4 and 7 p. m.

Each election district shall elect one person, a qualified elector of said district, to act as a member of the legislative caucus on the day of the election, and a standing calendar year, whose name shall be certified to on the returns to the district convention.

Candidates who have thus far registered their names with the secretary at 203-204, Meigs building, Scranton, Pa., and who are desirous of registering, will observe the requirements of rule 6, which reads as follows: "Each candidate must register his full name and postoffice address with the secretary of the legislative standing committee, and shall pay his assessment to the district chairman at least twenty days before the primary election, or his name will not be printed on the official ballot."

Saturday, the 17th day of March, 1900, is the last day for registering and paying the assessments.

T. J. Matthews, Chairman. Attest: J. E. Watkins, Secretary. Scranton, Pa., February 23, 1900.

Mention of Some Men of the Hour

PROBABLY as hard working and as thoroughly conscientious an official as may be found in the municipal building, Assistant City Solicitor David J. Davis. Upon him devolves the large amount of intricate detail work connected with the city solicitor's office, such as the filing of liens, etc., and to this Mr. Davis gives his attention, and one of the most popular officers among the rank and file in the whole command.

As an evidence of how much Mr. Davis' services are appreciated, it might be mentioned that after deciding that there should be no increase in salary for any official during the coming year the estimates committee reconsidered its action and gave him an increase of \$200. He is prominent in military circles, being adjutant of the Third battalion, with the rank of first lieutenant, and one of the most popular officers among the rank and file in the whole command.

One of the men who will take a prominent place in the next election is D. W. Vaughan, who was elected to represent the Nineteenth ward in that branch of the city legislature at the last election. Mr. Vaughan is no stranger to councils. He represented that ward before and did it well, although some of his constituents did not take kindly to the flagstone sidewalk he was instrumental in having them lay. They thought they could get along without them as well as not, and because of his enterprise they told Mr. Vaughan he had better not harbor an ambition to succeed himself.

He had tired of councils at any rate and dropped back into private life again without a murmur. Now he has been called to serve his neighbors again. The blessing that good sidewalk has to any community is now realized in the Nineteenth and Mr. Vaughan is asked to help convey further blessings on his ward. He is an able, quick-witted debater and during the heated sessions of the next election D. W. Vaughan will be one of the men who will have great weight in shaping legislation.

A. L. FRANCOIS, or "Alec," as he is familiarly called, who was re-elected school controller from the Second ward at the last election, is one of the most popular residents of North Scranton, and the fact that though he is a Democrat, he has many Republican friends, was evidenced by the fact that he had over 100 votes more than the Democratic candidate for common council for whose election the Democrats were working tooth and nail. Mr. Francois' first venture in city politics was made some four years ago, when he ran for common council and was defeated by a few votes. The following year he ran for school controller against Charles Von Storch, the retiring president of that body, and was elected by over 200 majority in what has always been a strong Republican ward. The next year Mr. Francois was himself elected president of the board.

He was for many years interested in the Scranton Beef company and was for a time the general manager of the concern. He is now retired from active business life, but has numerous property and other interests in this city, which fully occupy his time. He was one of the organizers of the Dime bank

and is one of its directors. Of French extraction, though born in New York, he has that innate courtesy and grace of manner which have made the Gallic race celebrated in all time. He is generous to a fault and his numerous acts of kindness for his neighbors accounts in part for his big vote at the last election.

NOTHING in the way of historical serials now finding their way into the magazines meet with more favor than the colonial stories being printed by the Harpers for Wilkes-Barre's talented young writer, Percival S. Riddsdale, city editor of the Evening Leader.

Mr. Riddsdale has many personal friends in Scranton, who watch his work with the warmest interest and who feel quite as much gratification at his success as can any of his fellow citizens.

Besides his work for Harpers, Mr. Riddsdale has for several years been contributing stories to the Evening Post of New York, dealing with phases of life in the mining patches of this part of the state. The beauty of his character sketches and the faithfulness with little hamlets are presented give these stories a peculiar charm. He has a future before him in the world of literature that is full of promise.

In Woman's Realm

IT IS SAID that very few women preserve their perpendicular carriage since a year of trailing skirts has left its traces on the form divine and that one shoulder will be found to have appreciably settled because of the continuous grasp upon the heavy draperies. In many cases inelegant curvature of the spine may be detected by a specialist, while the pain in the side of which many complain after a shopping tour may be directly traced to the necessity for grasping the skirts. Generally speaking it is the right side which will be found to be affected as the average woman seems to use her right hand more for lifting her skirts. The walking skirts for spring are to be much shorter—hasten the day.

SHE WAS a little maid and when she remarked to an older friend: "I want to know about Hades," the friend was distinctly shocked.

"Goodness gracious!" she ejaculated. "Why don't you go and ask Dr. McLeod? I think the Presbyterians believe in it yet. Or there is Dr. Giffin, they're having a sort of revival down at his church, and you might ask him. You know they say war is that."

"Oh I don't mean that kind," replied the little maid in a disgusted tone. "Why on earth should I want to find out about that now? What I have to write something on is the other place, the 'Night's Plutonian Shore,' and all that sort of thing. Didn't I have a lot of different kind of deities?"

"Well, I don't know what we're coming to!" exclaimed her friends, "but I suppose you may as well go on reading Dante and Milton, and while you're at it you may as well look in the encyclopedia for 'Styx' and 'Cerberus' and 'Charon.' Such things for a young girl to study. They didn't do so when I was young."

"I'M GOING to keep Lent very strictly," said The Girl with the Innocent Eyes. "I don't intend to have anything more than a chaffing dish party the whole time. No I shall not dance or play cards, and I shall not attend a thimble tea. I'm going to sew for the poor and read religious books, such as the Red Postage and 'The Weaver's Heart's Desire.' They say they both have good morals."

"So has Quo Vadis," remarked the Tailor Maid, "but it is very nasty. But say, dear, are you going to leave off telling lies and saying mean things about your friends and using your brother's ties and then saying the waitress did it, and being cross to your grandfather?"

And because The Girl with the Innocent Eyes could well get along without the Tailor Maid, who usually praised her pompadour and said her figure was elegant they again began speaking to each other the next day.

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